

Washington, DC - On Tuesday, Congresswoman Gwen Moore reintroduced legislation that would authorize \$2 million a year in federal funds for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation - Community Safety Initiative (LISC-CSI). Twelve members of the House representing cities across the country joined Rep. Moore to introduce this bill, which seeks to provide communities with the tools necessary to foster local economic development and combat violence in America's most dangerous neighborhoods.

"The current economic crisis is hitting low-income neighborhoods - already experiencing numerous challenges - extremely hard," said Congresswoman Moore. "It will take unique and creative solutions to see to it that these neighborhoods are not left behind as we move to put our communities back on track. For the past 14 years the LISC-CSI program has fostered relationships between community developers and local law enforcement officials, both of whom aim to create a lasting safer and better place to live."

LISC's Community Safety Initiative is a public/private venture that builds formal partnerships between police and community developers in some of the country's most challenged neighborhoods. In neighborhoods nationwide this program has helped build relationships between police officers and the community, as well as spurred local development and investment in troubled neighborhoods.

Currently, LISC is funded by private donations and requested direct financial assistance from the Federal government. Moore's bill would for the first time authorize federal funding to supplement, bolster and expand LISC's efforts to additional cities, as well as increase their investments in existing sites.

The localized community partnerships that LISC-CSI helps create, combined with tangible building and streetscape improvements on the ground, have noticeably

cut crime and violence in participating neighborhoods. Through the transformation of distressed neighborhoods into healthy communities, LISC-CSI partner communities are benefiting from local revitalization programs.

LISC has been active in Milwaukee since 1995, bringing more than \$46 million in reinvestment dollars, and helping to create more than 1,450 new affordable homes and 790,000 square feet of commercial space. The LISC-CSI program in Milwaukee has been focused on reducing crime in Washington Park and the SOHI commercial district since 2007.

"Increasing the effectiveness of police community outreach is a vital component to reducing crime, and we must also make sure that we are creating neighborhoods that do not facilitate violence," said Rep. Moore. "Supporting LISC-CSI annually is a tangible way to bring law enforcement together with the business and nonprofit community to foster growth and prevent crime in our neighborhoods."

###